

**ESTIMATED FUNDS AVAILABLE:** \$3,700,000

**ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PROJECTS:** 37

**FUNDING CEILINGS:** A maximum Federal share of \$100,000 is available for each award. It is expected that projects will be completed within two years of the award date.

**COST SHARE:** 25% cost share is required. Higher project cost sharing will be considered favorably. The relevance of cost sharing activities to the successful implementation of the project will also be considered.

**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES:** Rebuild America is a network of partnerships that implement projects and programs that focus on energy-related solutions to community problems. Rebuild America partnerships seek to use energy efficient and renewable energy technologies to improve building performance while consuming less energy and generating less pollution. To that end, Rebuild America connects partnerships with technical assistance, tools, training, and resources to help move projects from concept to completion.

The goals of the program are set forth in the Rebuild America Strategic Plan which is located on the web at [http://www.rebuild.org/attachments/programteam/rbaplan\(1\).PDF](http://www.rebuild.org/attachments/programteam/rbaplan(1).PDF). Applicants are encouraged to read the plan and submit applications consistent with the listed goals and objectives.

**PROJECTS REQUESTED/TECHNICAL AREA OF INTEREST:**

A. Rebuild America partnerships operate in five sectors; State & Local Government, Colleges and Universities, Commercial Buildings, Multi-family Housing, and K-12 Schools. Applicants are encouraged to develop proposals that relate directly to the objectives of the program as outlined in the Rebuild America Strategic Plan. Proposals should be consistent with pressing energy, environmental, and resource needs affecting their state. Multi-sector proposals are both allowed and encouraged. Proposals should, as a minimum, include specific items listed in the evaluation criteria under the five categories: (1) Project Description and Implementation Plan; (2) Qualifications of Participating Organizations and Individuals; (3) Sustainability; (4) State SEP Project Grant History; and (5) Quantity and Quality of Cost Share.

B. Rebuild America is also seeking alternative means of providing products and services. This includes distribution of publications that may be used nationally; expertise and experience in a practice like performance contracting; technical expertise in a building technology through participation with a University or State sponsored project; or a successful model for implementing building retrofit projects within a community or sector. States and partners that have developed a particular expertise are encouraged to submit a proposal that:

1. Defines the product, service, or expertise
2. Discusses the method by which it would be made available to other partnerships
3. Identifies specific costs associated with providing the service or product

4. Demonstrates resource availability necessary to respond to other partnership requests for the service or expertise
5. Defines a geographic area within which the product or service will be made available

Applicants should provide a detailed description of the project including assignment of responsibilities, budget, timelines, statement of objectives, application of cost share, deliverables and anticipated outcomes. The narrative should explain how the proposal will further the goals and objectives of the Rebuild America program. Applicants should identify specific and measurable building-related improvements that will directly result from implementation of this project. In addition, the narrative should address the following questions:

1. What is the target market sector(s)?
2. What approach will the applicant use to reach this sector(s)?
3. What buildings/building owners within the market sector have been targeted?
4. What partnerships exist that will enhance the potential for successful completion of the project?
5. Are there other Government programs or resources that would complement this effort?

States may submit proposals for either part A or part B or both. States may submit a state-specific application and a multi-state application. Each multi-state proposal must be submitted by a lead state. Only one state-specific grant may be awarded to a state. A multi-state application will not be counted against the lead state's total or the total of other states that are a part of the multi-state application; this means that a lead state may be awarded a multi-state grant and a state-specific grant.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:** Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:** Technical merit of the project, likelihood of success as evidenced by a detailed description of the project, statement of objectives, deliverables, and anticipated outcomes. If proposed, evidence of the ability to organize and host conference/workshop events. **(Weight 40)**

**QUALIFICATIONS OF PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS:** Capabilities of the team as shown by past successful involvement with cost-shared public/private partnership projects as well as team members' education, experience, and previous success. Particular emphasis should be placed on identifying the role key team members play for specific tasks performed and how the stated expertise or experience relates to successful accomplishment of those tasks. Consideration will be given to the level of involvement that the proposing state agency has in the project. **(Weight 20)**

**SUSTAINABILITY:** Evidence of a specific plan outlining how the programs, activities, lessons learned, or other project outcomes will be continued after Federal funding is expended. **(Weight 10)**

**STATE SEP SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT HISTORY\*:** Evidence of the proposing state's history in the administration and implementation of SEP Rebuild Special Project grants will be considered. Applicant's should describe the status and results of any prior SEP Special Project grant. Accomplishments from prior awards should be highlighted.

In addition, applicants should complete the chart below (for any active grant) showing SEP Rebuild Special Projects awarded, total funds provided, and current balances.

Grant no.	Amount	Expiration Date	Current Balance

\*States with no prior Rebuild Special Project grant will have their submission under PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN evaluated with a weight of 55 for that criterion. **(Weight 15)**

QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF COST SHARE: Cost of the proposed project accurately reflects level of anticipated project benefits. Degree to which the proposed cost share exceed the minimum required. Quality of cost share (in-kind services such as general office costs for example, are less favorable cost-sharing means than a direct, project financial contribution). **(Weight 15)**

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:** Funds may not be used for the purchase of land, vehicles, buildings, or capital improvements, including but not limited to, the purchases or installation of equipment or building products.